

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 IO-03 NSC-10 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-10 L-02

DODE-00 EUR-10 PRS-01 DPW-01 RSR-01 /080 W

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O R 131200Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4569

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

UMJPT/AMCONSUL BIEN HOA 871

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 12672

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE  
EMBASSY AS OF 1800 JULY 13, AND COVERS THE PERIOD SINCE THE  
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LAST SITREP JULY 11.

SUMMARY

1. PRG DEL NOTIFIED UPI LATE MORNING JULY 13 THAT THE TWO MISSING CANADIAN OFFICERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP ON JULY 14.

2. THE PRG DEL OF THE TPJMC HAS PROPOSED AN "INVESTIGATION TEAM" TO VISIT KONTUM AND CHUONG THIEN TO INVESTIGATE THE FIGHTING AND TO FIX THE LOCATION OF TROOP UNITS IN THOSE AREAS. THE GVN DEL, HOWEVER, IS INSISTING THAT THE TEAMS MUST BE FORMED AT REGIONAL OR SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL AND NOT FROM PERSONNEL AT THE CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS IN SAIGON WHICH THEY FEAR WILL ALLOW THE PRG DEL TO CONTINUE TO DELAY DEPLOYMENT.

3. THE WEEKLY LIAISON FLIGHT BETWEEN SAIGON AND HANOI WAS AGAIN CANCELLED WHEN THE DRV DEL REPRESENTATIVES REFUSED TO SIGN THE ROUTINE SAFETY GUARANTEES.

4. MR 1 CONTINUED TO BE QUIET MILITARILY, ALTHOUGH THE VC/NVA ARE CONTINUING THEIR PROGRAM OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE WESTERN AREAS, INCLUDING THE REPAIR OF SOME AREAS DAMAGED BY THE RECENT HEAVY RAINS. KONTUM CONTINUED TO BE THE AREA OF HEAVIEST FIGHTING IN MR 2. IN MR 3 THE RVNAF OPERATION TO CLEAR A PORTION OF ROUTE 1-A IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE CONTINUES TO ENCOUNTER STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE. MR 4 CONTINUED THE RECENT TREND OF RELATIVELY LIGHT COMBAT ACTIVITY.

#### PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. 73RD ICCS PLENARY SESSION JULY 11 LASTED BARELY 15 MINUTES AND WAS ADJOURNED IN SAME FASHION AS JULY 9 PLENARY. AGENDA FOR JULY 11 PLENARY WAS CARRIED FORWARD FROM JULY 9 PLENARY PLUS ADDITION OF TWO PRG REQUESTS FOR ICCS INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGED GVN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. CANDEL AMB GAUVIN PROPOSED THAT ICCS COMMISSION SHOULD NOT CONDUCT ANY BUSINESS UNTIL MISSING CANADIANS WERE RELEASED. HUNGDEL ICCS CHAIRMAN REPORTED THAT PRG WAS WAITING FOR WORD BEFORE TAKING FURTHER ACTION THAT CEASEFIRE WAS IN EFFECT IN AREA WHERE MISSING MEN ARE PRESUMED TO BE. HUNGDEL AGAIN "REGRETTED" CANDEL PROPOSAL; POLDEL SAID NOTHING; INDODEL VIEWED SITUATION AS "UNFORTUNATE" BUT UNDERSTOOD CANDEL POSITION. PLENARY THEN ADJOURNED. CONFIDENTIAL

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NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED JULY 13.

2. CANDEL SOURCES TELL US THAT HUNGDEL AMBASSADOR TOLD CANDEL AMBASSADOR JULY 11 THAT PRG "NOT NOW INTENTIONALLY DELAYING RELEASE OF MISSING MEN", BUT THAT PRG HAS GENUINE COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES WITH ITS FIELD FORCES WHO ARE FORCED TO MAINTAIN LONG PERIODS OF RADIO SILENCE TO AVOID INCOMING GVN ARTILLERY FIRE.

3. THE GVNDEL OF THE TPJMC GUARANTEED TO THE CANDEL AND HUNGDEL ON THE MORNING OF JULY 13 THAT THEY WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH A PLANNED TRIP JULY 14 TO SEEK THE MISSING OFFICERS. THE PRG INFORMED UPI LATE MORNING OF JULY 13 THAT THE CANDEL OFFICERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO BE PICKED UP ON JULY 14. A MEETING BETWEEN ICCS HUNGDEL/

CANDEL AND THE PRG IS NOW IN PROGRESS TO ARRANGE DETAILS.

PART II TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

1. GVN DEL SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE PRG DEL PRESENTED A LETTER OF PROTEST TO THE GVN DEL OF THE TPJMC ON JULY 10 CASTIGATING THE VNAF BOMBING OF DAK TO II AIRFIELD IN KONTUM ON JULY 2. DURING THE MEETING, ACCORDING TO THE GVN DEL SOURCE, THE PRG DEL WARNED THAT CONTINUED RVNAF INCURSIONS INTO PRG-HELD TERRITORY WOULD BE MET BY RETALIATION. THIS THREAT WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE WRITTEN PROTEST.

2. THE GVN DEL FINALLY TABLED ITS DRAFT STATEMENT OUTLINING TPJMC RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD THE ICCS WHICH INCLUDES ONE PARAGRAPH STATING THAT THE ICCS HAS THE RIGHT TO TRAVEL AT ANY TIME WITHOUT REFERENCE TO FIXED "AIRWAYS, CORRIDORS, ALTITUDES OR ROUTES." THE PRG DEL REFUSED TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL. THE GVN DEL AT TODAY'S MEETING INTENDED TO PROPOSE THAT THE TPJMC INVITE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CANADIAN AND POLISH RED CROSS SOCIETIES TO COME TO VIET-NAM TO DISCUSS WITH THE TPJMC, A PROGRAM FOR VISITS BY DELEGATIONS FROM THOSE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. THE PRG DEL HAS INSISTED THAT THE FULL SOCIETIES MUST COME TO VIET-NAM BEFORE WORKING OUT A PROGRAM OF VISITS.

3. THE PRG DEL HAS PROPOSED THAT THE TPJMC IN SAIGON ESTABLISH AN "INVESTIGATION TEAM" TO TRAVEL TO KONTUM AND CHUONG THIEN TO INVESTIGATE THE FIGHTING AND TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF TROOP UNITS IN THOSE AREAS. GVN DEL REPRESENTATIVES TOLD EMBOFF THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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BELIEVE THAT THE GVN SIDE COULD ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL EVEN THOUGH THEY BELIEVE IT IS MERELY A PLOY TO ESTABLISH THE PRG'S CLAIM TO TERRITORY IN THESE TWO AREAS. HOWEVER, THE GVN DEL INTENDS TO HOLD FAST TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT THESE TEAMS MUST BE FORMED AT THE REGIONAL OR SUB-REGIONAL LEVELS, FEARING THAT TO ORGANIZE A SPECIAL TEAM FROM HEADQUARTERS IN SAIGON WILL SET A PRECEDENT WHICH WILL ENABLE THE PRG DEL TO CONTINUE TO AVOID ACTUAL DEPLOYMENT TO THE FIELD.

PART III FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (FPJMT)

1. LITTLE FORWARD PROGRESS WAS MADE AT JULY 12 FPJMT MEETING AS AN IMPASSE ON SUBJECTS TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING RESTRICTED DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE OF MAINTENANCE OF GRAVES. USDEL CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE OTHER DELEGATIONS THE FAILURE OF THE DRV DELEGATION TO BE FORTHCOMING REGARDING THE REPATRIATION OF US DIED IN CAPTIVITY (DIC) FROM NVN. THE DRV DELEGATION RE-EMPHASIZED ITS POSITION THAT THE FPJMT MUST REACH FORMAL AGREEMENT BEFORE ARRANGEMENTS TO REPATRIATE THE DIC COULD BE FINALIZED.

2. FOR THE FOURTH STRAIGHT WEEK THE SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHT WAS CANCELLED AS THE DRV DELEGATION CONTINUE ITS REFUSAL TO SIGN

THE ROUTINE SAFETY CERTIFICATE.

3. AN OFF-SHORE US CASUALTY RESOLUTION OPERATION HAS COMMENCED IN THE HUE-DANANG AREA. THIS TRIAL OPERATION, SCHEDULED TO LAST SIX WEEKS, CONDUCTED BY A US-CONTRACTED SHIP AND CREW AND SUPERVISED BY A US NAVY SALVAGE REPRESENTATIVE, WILL ATTEMPT TO FIND UP TO EIGHT CRASHED AIRCRAFT LOCATED ABOUT 4 KMS. OFF THE COAST USING SIDE SCANNING SONAR, PRECISION NAVIGATION SYSTEMS, AND UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT.

PART IV GVN/PRG BILATERALS

16TH PLENARY SESSION OF GVN/PRG BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BEING HELD IN FRANCE CONTINUED PATTERN OF PREVIOUS MEETING. ACCORDING TO USDEL JEC PARIS IT WAS CHARACTERIZED BY ACrimonious PRESENTATIONS AND A COMPLETE LACK OF SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS. VIEN (GVN) PROPOSED IMMEDIATE SECRET TALKS, WHICH HIEU (PRG) PROMPTLY REJECTED. EACH SIDE TRIED TO PORTRAY THE OTHER AS A DELIBERATE, PERSISTENT VIOLATOR OF THE COMMUNIQUE. IN POST-SESSION PRESS CONFERENCES  
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THE PRG ATTEMPTED TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST CHARGES THAT IT SEEKS TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS. IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE JULY 18.  
(USDEL 19051)

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DODE-00 EUR-10 PRS-01 DPW-01 IO-03 RSR-01 /080 W

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O R 131200Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4570

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA  
AMCONSUL CAN THO  
CINCPAC  
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE  
USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR  
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

PART V MR 1

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A LOW LEVEL AND WAS SCATTERED MAINLY THROUGHOUT THE THREE SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF THE REGION. ONE UNUSUAL INCIDENT OCCURRED IN NORTHERN QUANG TRI IN THE MARINE CORPS AO ON JULY 11. ACCORDING TO THE I CORPS TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER LOG, AT 1140 HOURS A MARINE 3/4 TON TRUCK ACCIDENTALLY ENTERED AN ENEMY CONTROLLED SECTOR WHERE IT WAS CAPTURED. THE DRIVER AND A CONFIDENTIAL

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PASSENGER ESCAPED TO FRIENDLY LINES. AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT STATISTICS FOR THE TWO-DAY PERIOD BROKEN OUT ACCORDING TO THE DAY THEY WERE REPORTED AT THE I CORPS HEAD-QUARTERS MORNING BRIEFING. JULY 12: FOUR CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, MADE UP OF ONE GROUND ATTACK, TWO ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), AND ONE HARASSMENT. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY TWO KIA, 14 WIA; ENEMY TWO KIA, ONE CAPTURED. JULY 13: FIVE CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, ALL ABFS. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY FIVE KIA, 18 WIA; ENEMY SIX KIA, FIVE RETURNEES.

2. COLONEL DO TUNG, CHIEF OF RVN DELEGATION TO REGION II TPJMC, TOLD CONGEN POLOFF THAT HIS COUNTERPART IN REGION I, COLONEL TRUONG TAN THUC, IS DUE TO BE REPLACED BY COLONEL HO NGOC TAM, CURRENTLY IN SAIGON AT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. COLONEL TUNG COULD GIVE NO REASON FOR THIS ACTION. POLOFF HUE HAS CONFIRMED THIS CHANGE TO TAKE PLACE JULY 14 AND CONSIDERS IT UNEXPECTED AND ABRUPT. POLES HAVE SPECULATED TO HIM THAT THUC WAS REPLACED BECAUSE OF RUNNING ARGUMENT WITH THE HUNGARIANS WHICH WAS EXACERBATED BY THUC'S REFUSAL TO ALL THEM TO CALL ON THE PRG LIAISON GROUP JULY 8. HUE POLOFF CONSIDERS THIS SPECULATION AS LIKELY TO BE MORE WISHFUL THINKING THAN CONSIDERED JUDGMENT.

3. POLOFF QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT ON JULY 11, SECTOR STAFF BRIEFERS INDICATED THE BATTALION 2/6, 2ND DIV IS BEING WITHDRAWN FROM THE NUI TRONG AREA OF WESTERN SON TINH. THE BATTALION HAD BEEN AIR-LIFTED INTO THE AREA LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AGO AS PART OF A PLANNED OPERATION TO SECURE WESTERN SON TINH. NOW IT IS TO BE REPLACED BY BATTALION 3/5. POLOFF COMMENT: REASONS FOR THE SHIFT WERE NOT ANNOUNCED. HOWEVER, THE SON TINH DISTRICT CHIEF, MAJOR TRAN NGOC TAN, TOLD POLOFF AND AREA DIRECTOR ON JULY 10 THAT 2ND DIV PLANS CALLED FOR A SECOND BATTALION TO CONDUCT A NORTH-SOUTH SWEEP BETWEEN NUI

TRONG AND THE RAILWAY. POSSIBLY THE 2/6 BATTALION WILL CONDUCT THIS SWEEP WHILE THE 3/5 HOLDS THE BLOCKING POSITION AROUND NUI TRONG. END COMMENT.

4. ON JULY 12, POLOFF HUE LEARNED FROM THE I CORPS FORWARD STAFF BRIEFING THAT AERIAL PHOTOS SHOW THE PRESENCE OF TWELVE NEW SAM MISSILES IN THREE DIFFERENT SITES AROUND THE KHE SANH AREA IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE AND A POL DEPOT NEAR THE AIRSTRIP. (THIS INFORMATION IS LIKELY BASED ON DATA ALREADY AVAILABLE TO THE US MISSION.) INTELLIGENCE REPORTS BY THE G-2 AT THE SAME BRIEFING  
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INDICATE SOME 30 TO 40 TENTS, TRUCKS AND AN ARMOR UNIT WITH 30 TANKS ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF A LUOI (YD3800) IN FAR WESTERN THUA THIEN PROVINCE.

5. ACCORDING TO POLOFF HUE, QUANG TRI SECTOR S-2 REPORTS THAT THE ENEMY HAS REBUILT SEVEN BRIDGES ALONG NATIONAL ROUTE 9 FROM KHE SANH TO CAM LO, APPARENTLY IN ORDER TO MAKE THE HIGHWAY PASSABLE DURING THE MONSOON SEASON. THE BRIDGES ARE FOUR METERS WIDE WITH IRON FRAMES AND WOODEN SUPERSTRUCTURES.

PART VI MR 2

1. KONTUM CONTINUED TO BE MR 2'S MOST IMPORTANT AREA OF CONFLICT DURING THE 48-HOUR REPORTING PERIOD WITH NINE OF THE THIRTY INCIDENTS REPORTED BY MR-2 REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT NHA TRANG. DURING THE 48-HOUR PERIOD CONTINUED FIGHTING IN KONTUM DID NOT RESULT IN ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES OF POSITION BY EITHER SIDE. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED BY BOTH SIDES WERE: VC/NVA - 23 KIA (16 IN KONTUM) AND ONE VC SUSPECT CAPTURED; GVN - SIX KIA (FIVE IN KONTUM) AND 23 WIA (12 IN KONTUM). THE GVN ALSO CREDITED ITSELF WITH DESTROYING 100 VC STRUCTURES IN PHU YEN PROVINCE.

2. PROV REP QUANG DUC REPORTED THAT MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE OLD BU PRANG AREA HAS INCREASED OF LATE, AS THE NVA IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PREVENT PROVINCIAL FORCES FROM INTERDICTING THE FLOW OF COMMUNIST TRUCK TRAFFIC ALONG ROUTE 309 TO WHERE IT CONNECTS WITH THEIR EXTENSION OF ROUTE 14. PROV REP'S ARVN INTERPRETER STATES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN EIGHT OR NINE FRIENDLY KIA AND A PROPORTIONAL NUMBER OF WOUNDED IN THE AREA DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS, MOSTLY FROM INDIRECT FIRE. SECTOR CHIEF OF STAFF, HOWEVER, REPORTS ONLY ONE KIA AND TWO WIA. WHEN ASKED IF HE HAD ANY INDICATIONS OF A CHANGE IN ENEMY STRENGTH AND/OR AMBITION, THE CHIEF OF STAFF REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. NEVERTHELESS, THE HEADQUARTERS AND THE ARTILLERY PLATOON OF ONE OF QUANG DUC'S THREE RF BATTALIONS HAS BEEN MOVED TO BU BON, THE NEAREST FRIENDLY OUTPOST IN THE AREA IN QUESTION.

3. PROV REP SUGGESTED THAT HE MAY NOT BE RECEIVING COMPLETE INFORMATION FROM GVN SOURCES AND ADDED THAT HIS INTERPRETER STATES THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT A "HIGHER HEADQUARTERS" HAD ORDERED SECTOR

NOT TO REVEAL IMPORTANT CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY MILI-  
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TARY INTELLIGENCE, TO AMERICANS.

4. CONSUL PHAN THIET REPORTS THAT THREE RAILROAD BRIDGE EXPLOSIONS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS DRAMATIZE THE PROBLEM OF OPENING THE RAILROAD INTO BINH THUAN. THE PROVINCE CHIEF, COLONEL NGHIA, HAS REPEATEDLY DEPLORED THE REQUIREMENT FOR ASSIGNING TROOPS TO PROTECT A SERVICE SO EASILY PUT OUT OF ACTION, BUT IT APPARENTLY REMAINS MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERS' POLICY TO RESUME SERVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SONG MAO AND EVEN BEYOND.

5. A GVN TPJMC DELEGATION FROM SAIGON ARRIVED IN PHAN THIET ON JULY 11 TO INSPECT GVN JMC FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS THE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT SET ASIDE FOR PRG USE AT SUCH TIME AS DEPLOYMENT OCCURS. THE GROUP ALSO PLANS TO LOOK AT THE DGC AND BAO LOC SITES BEFORE RETURNING TO SAIGON.

6. LAM DONG PROVINCE CHIEF, LT. COLONEL LUU THANH HUU, TOLD CONGEN OFFICER ON JULY 11 THAT HE IS AT PRESENT UNDER PRESSURE FROM SEVERAL SIDES AND THAT HE HAS ASKED MR 2 CORPS COMMANDER, MAJOR GENERAL TOAN, FOR PERMISSION TO RESIGN. THOUGH HIS REQUEST WAS DENIED, LT. COLONEL HUU CONTENDS THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE WILL REMAIN IN LAM DONG MUCH LONGER. HE BASED THIS PREDICTION ON PROBLEMS HE IS ENCOUNTERING WITH: (1) THE PROGRAM FOR UPGRADING RF/PF TO ARVN; (2) THE DIFFICULTIES OF SUPPORTING 11,000 BINH LONG REFUGEES RESETTLED IN LAM DONG LAST MONTH; AND (3) MR 2 HEADQUARTERS ENCROACHMENT IN THE AREA OF FOREST CONTROL WHICH HERETOFORE HAD BEEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVINCE OFFICIALS.

7. PLEIKU SECTOR HQ STATES ENEMY AFTERNOON JULY 11 FIRED SEVEN ROUNDS 122 MM ROCKETS ON TWO OCCASIONS INTO SEPARATE AREAS PLEIKU AIRFIELD, RESULTING ONE RF WOUNDED. THIS FOLLOWS EARLIER SHELLING JULY 9 OF REAR BASE 23RD DIV ON OUTSKIRTS PLEIKU CITY. IN THE OTHERWISE QUIET SITUATION IN PLEIKU, SPECULATION IS THAT THESE ABF ARE A FOLLOW-UP TO PRG THREAT TO SHELL ARVN POSITIONS IN REPRISAL FOR JULY 2 BOMBING OF DAK TO II AIRSTRIP.

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O R 131200Z JUL 73  
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USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR  
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

PART VII MR 3

1. MR 3 G-2 REPORTS FURTHER INCREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY FOR 48 HOURS ENDING 0800 JULY 13. TWENTY-EIGHT COMMUNIST/RVNAF CLASHES WERE RECORDED IN THE FIRST 24 HOURS AND ANOTHER 22 IN THE FINAL 24 HOURS, FOR A TOTAL OF 50. THESE INCLUDED 20 ABF 18 GROUND CONTACTS, 11 MINING/GRENADE INCIDENTS (ALL MILITARY) AND ONE GVN DEPUTY HAM-LET CHIEF ASSASSINATED. REPORTED RVNAF LOSSES FOR THE PERIOD WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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11 KIA AND 21 WIA, INCLUDING ONE CIVILIAN KILLED AND ONE WOUNDED ON JULY 11 AND ONE OFFICIAL SHOT JULY 12. NO MIA WERE REPORTED. KNOWN COMMUNIST LOSSES IN THE PAST TWO DAYS WERE 17 KILLED, ONE CAPTURED JULY 12.

2. FOUR VC/NVA RALLIED TO THE GVN IN THE PAST 48 HOURS, ONE EACH IN BINH LONG, BINH DUONG AND HAU NGHIA, AND ONE MONTAGNARD, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE VC K.17 DISTRICT UNIT IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE ON JULY 11. NCO RALLIER, NGUYEN VAN DINH, WHO RALLIED IN BINH LONG ON JULY 12, IDENTIFIES HIS PARENT UNIT AS THE 203RD ARMOR REGIMENT. DINH FURTHER STATED THAT THE D21, D22, AND D23 ARMOR BATTALIONS (SUBORDINATE TO THE 203RD) HAVE RELOCATED WITH 30 T-54 TANKS IN EACH BATTALION, TO AN AREA NORTH OF DAU TIENG, ON THE NORTHERN TAY NINH-BINH DUONG PROVINCE BORDER AREA.

3. HEAVIEST MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS BEEN RELATED TO ARVN EFFORT TO CLEAR INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 1-A NORTH OF PHU GIAO DISTRICT TOWN,



BINH DUONG PROVINCE. FIFTEEN MILITARY CLASHES WERE REPORTED, TO INCLUDE FIVE MINOR SHELLING/ROCKETINGS OF THE 5TH DIV HEADQUARTERS AND ADJACENT AREAS IN AND AROUND LAI KHE. IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE TEN ENCOUNTERS WERE REPORTED A FEW KILOMETERS NE OF DON LUAN ALONG NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14, WHICH TWO RANGER BATTALIONS CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO HOLD OPEN. BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SUPPLIES ARE EXTREMELY SHORT IN PHUOC BINH-SONG BE AREA OF PROVINCE AND ON JULY 11 MR 3 RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (RD) ASKED THE CENTRAL RDC TO GET THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF CENTRALLOGISTICS AGENCY TO TRANSPORT 200 TONS OF RICE (A 20-DAY SUPPLY) FROM SAIGON TO PHUOC LONG ASAP.

4. TWO MINING/GRENADE INCIDENTS AND ONE SMALL ARMS GROUND ATTACK, RESULTING IN ONE RVNAF KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED, HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN GIA DINH PROVINCE, SE OF THU DUC-APPARENTLY RELATED TO ON-GOING RF OPERATIONS TO SEARCH AND CLEAR AREAS BORDERING THE SAIGON CAPITAL ZONE.

5. PHUOC TUY CONSUL REPORTS THAT A LONG DIEN DISTRICT PF PLATOON SUCCESSFULLY AMBUSHED THE VC LONG DAT DISTRICT (GVN LONG DIEN AND DAT DO DISTRICTS) FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AND ITS SECURITY FORCE AT 0100 JULY 13 IN THE MINH DAM SECRET ZONE," KILLING FIVE AND CAPTURING ONE WHILE SUFFERING TWO PF WOUNDED. INTELLIGENCE FOR THE AMBUSH WAS FURNISHED BY PHUOC TUY SECTOR S-2; ITS SITE WAS WELL BEYOND NORMAL PF PATROL AREA. AMBUSH IS LATEST SUCCESS IN PHUOC CONFIDENTIAL

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TUY PROVINCE CHIEF LTC HUYN BUU SON'S RECENT EFFORT TO REDUCE MINH DAM, HISTORICALLY A HAVEN FOR GUERRILLAS. SON'S PRE-CEASE-FIRE II MOVE TO CLEAR PROVINCIAL ROUTE 44 BETWEEN LONG HAI AND PHUOC HAI VILLAGES WHERE MINH DAM MEETS SOUTH CHINA SEA, HAS CUT OFF SEA RESUPPLY TO GUERRILLAS AND MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO ENTER GVN-CONTROLLED AREAS. THERE HAVE BEEN THREE RALLIERS FROM THE AREA IN PAST MONTH, AND REPORTEDLY ONE LOCAL FORCE COMPANY HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM MINH DAM WHILE ONLY ONE UNDER-STRENGTH COMPANY REMAINS.

6. THE DEPUTY SUB-SECTOR COMMANDER OF DUC HOA, DUA NGHIA, TOLD CONSUL THAT VC/NVA HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPING BOTH MALE AND FEMALE TEEN-AGERS. ACCORDING TO THE ARVN OFFICER, THE VC/NVA BRING THE TEEN-AGERS TO THE PARROT'S BEAK AREA OF CAMBODIA WHERE THEY ARE PROPAGANDIZED AND LATER FORCED TO CARRY AMMUNITION AND DO OTHER JOBS.

7. DUC HOA DISTRICT CHIEF, WELL IN HIS CUPS AFTER A DRINKING SESSION WITH SOME OF HIS TROOPS, LET SLIP TO CONSUL THAT VC/NVA ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT ONE OF HIS PF PLATOON LEADERS. HE SAID THE PLATOON LEADER REFUSED THE CONTACT AND REPORTED IT TO THE DISTRICT CHIEF. WHEN CONSUL SHOWED INTEREST IN THE MEETING AND ASKED FOR DETAILS, DISTRICT CHIEF CHANGED THE SUBJECT.

PART VIII MR 4

1. MR 4 REPORTED AN AVERAGE OF 20 ALLEGED VC/NVA CEASE-FIRE

VIOLATIONS A DAY FOR THE THREE-DAY PERIOD JULY 10-12. THERE WERE 18, 23, AND 19 REPORTED INCIDENTS ON JULY 10, 11, AND 12 RESPECTIVELY. THEY INCLUDED SEVEN GROUND ATTACKS, 37 ABF, 13 HARASSMENTS, AND THREE ACTS OF TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE, RVNAF LOST 34 KILLED, 170 WOUNDED, AND TWO MISSING, WHILE CLAIMING 103 VC/NVA DEAD AND THREE CAPTURED.

2. QUIET REIGNS IN CHUONG THIEN. DURING THE PAST WEEK, INCIDENTS HAVE AVERAGED ABOUT FIVE PER DAY IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE HARD FIGHTING OF MAY AND JUNE. THE VC CONTINUE OCCASIONAL MORTARINGS AND HARASSMENTS AND THE GVN HALF-HEARTEDLY RUNS PATROLS. A HIGH-RANKING ARVN OFFICER RECENTLY OBSERVED TO A VICE CONSUL IN VI THANH THAT VC HIGHPOINTS IN CHUONG THIEN HAVE COME ALONG ABOUT EVERY FOUR AND HALF WEEKS SINCE CEASE-FIRE I. IF THE PAST PATTERN HOLDS, ANOTHER IS DUE IN A FEW DAYS. THE ARVN OFFICER REASONED  
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THAT IF THE HIGHPOINT DOES NOT OCCUR WITHIN TWO WEEKS OR SO, IT WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE VC HAVE SWITCHED FROM A TACTIC OF PRIMARILY MILITARY CONFRONTATION TO ONE OF POLITICAL STRUGGLE.

3. GROUND FIRE DISABLED AN AIR AMERICA HELICOPTER OVER KIEN HOA JULY 12 BUT IT LANDED SAFELY AT ITS BEN TRE DESTINATION. THE HELICOPTER, CARRYING THE PILOT AND KIEN HOA PROV REP, RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE AT ABOUT 0940 HOURS WHILE FLYING OVER HUONG MY DISTRICT, ABOUT 14 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF BEN TRE. FOUR ROUNDS STRUCK THE UNOCCUPIED CO-PILOT'S SEAT AND ONE DAMAGED A ROTOR BLADE. NO ONE WAS INJURED. THE LAST AIR AMERICA CRAFT STRUCK BY HOSTILE FIRE WAS A PORTER SLIGHTLY DAMAGED OVER BA XUYEN MAY 7.

4. REGION VI GVN/JMC COLONEL NGUYEN VAN LOI TOLD A VISITING VICE CONSUL IN MY THO JULY 10 THAT HE WAS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO HIS POLITICAL CADRE THE EXACT MEANING OF THE JUNE 13 PARIS JOINT COMMUNIQUE. HE NOTED THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAD CALLED THE JANUARY 27 AGREEMENT AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE VICTORIES. THEY POINTED TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS AND THE MINESWEEPING IN HAIPHONG AS CLEAR EVIDENCES OF VICTORY. LOI SAID IT WAS "COMMONLY KNOWN" THAT LE DUC THO DRAFTED THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND THAT KISSINGER SIGNED IT WITHOUT A CHANGE. WHEN ASKED HOW THIS WAS COMMONLY KNOWN, LOI SAID IT HAD BEEN REPORTED BY A "HIGH LEVEL GVN POLITICAL CADRE IN PARIS." LOI WAS ALSO SUSPICIOUS OF KISSINGER AND THO SIGNING A SEPARATE TWO PARTY JOINT COMMUNIQUE. HE PROFESSED NOT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THIS WAS DONE UNLESS THE DOCUMENT CONTAINED SECRET PROTOCOLS HOSTILE TO THE GVN. LOI SAID IT WAS IMPERATIVE TO INTERPRET THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE FAVORABLY TO THE GVN, AND HE ASKED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MY THO VICE CONSUL IN PREPARING AN EXPLANATION HE COULD GIVE TO HIS POLITICAL CADRE.  
APPLING

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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